

*Application No. 10/092,242
Amndt. dated: Sept 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action mailed: Aug 13, 2003*

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

In the specification, paragraph [0003] has been amended to update the status of patent application 09/616,487.

Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 11, 14, 15 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 12, 13 and 17 have been amended.

Claim Objections.

The objection to claims 6, 13, 15 and 17 is believed to be moot following cancellation of claim 15 and amendment of claims 6, 13 and 17. Claim 17 remains dependent from claim 16 which has been allowed. As originally presented, claim 7 did not identify a parent claim and this inadvertent error has been corrected.

Allowed and Allowable Claims.

The allowance of claim 16 has been noted with appreciation. Claims 3, 5, 10 and 12 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claims 1 and 4 and claim 3 has been made dependent from claim 5. Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 1. Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 11 (now cancelled). Consequently, claims 1, 5, 10, 12 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 US 102

Originally presented Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 US 102(e) as anticipated by US Patent Publication 2001/0033714 (Delisle). Without concurrence as to the merits of the rejection, the rejection is now moot as to cancelled claims 11, 14 and 18 and amended claim . Claims 2, 4, 7-9 depend from allowable claims and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Claim Rejections under 35 US 103

Originally presented claims 6, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 US 103(a) as unpatentable over Delisle in view of US Patent 6,301,409 (Whiteaway). Without concurring as to the merits of the rejection, claim 15 has been cancelled; claim 6 (now dependent from claim 5) and claim 13 are dependent from allowable parent claims and are likewise allowable.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

The reasons for allowance stated in Paragraph 11 of the Official Action have been noted without comment and it is observed that each of the pending claims is distinguished from the cited references by the overall combination of features set forth in that claim.

CONCLUSION.

All of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. If there are any remaining issues that could be resolved by discussion, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (972) 862-7428 would be appreciated.

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Respectfully submitted,



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